

LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION COUNCIL MEETING
2/17/00

Chairman Don Hutchinson called meeting to order. Members present were Jerry Guillot, Butch Speer, Bill Beyer, Bob Harper and Don Hutchinson. Quorum was established.

D. Hutchinson stated seven (7) proposals would be presented today. Each agency had 15 minutes for presentation, followed by questions by Council members.

Military Department

Submitted by LA National Guard to provide for medium training classroom and MCU implementation plan presented by Colonel Glen Appe, Director of Information for National Guard along with Colonel John Landry, Special Projects Officer, and Colonel Mike Appe, Special Assistant. Colonel G. Appe stated part of national rollout with the National Guard bureau of distance learning network through 54 states and territories and in Louisiana network has been extended to other cities. Seventy-five percent of initial grant has been completed and 100% will be initiated by 6/30. Asking for two additional classrooms in Carville (Youth Challenge Program) and at the Lakefront Airport (Aviation Facility) and an additional multi-point control unit for Jackson Barracks (for multi-conferencing and multi-protocol) and telecommunication. Cost of \$483,000 to deploy two sites and multi-point control for Jackson Barracks unit and to have telecommunications support for those sites for two years. Five sites being used with Grambling State University undergraduate program and the other site is being used at LSU Medical Center School of Dentistry in Lafayette. Eight of sites are at break even as far as operations go. The objective is that by end of third year, all sites will be at break even as far as operations of personnel, telecomm, and maintenance.

Questions:

B.Beyer: Elaborate on innovation involved with this project. Explain how this proposal would be separate from a continuation of the project.

G. Appe: Project was submitted as one package and was funded for a portion. The innovation of this project would be a combination of ATM backbone projects of National Guard, state, and ATM video with existing state legacy system that works with OTM and Bellsouth. Additional innovations would be learning and integrate all types of protocol and make systems work. Most unique is shared use concept where resources from federal and state grants are brought in to develop an effort and provide access for educational opportunities where not available. Will bring in educational benefits and technological innovation part of pilot project at state and national level.

D. Hutchinson: What happens if two more sites are brought in? This sounds like a continuation--not anything new. Could you elaborate?

G. Appe: Package was put in entirety but only one phase was funded.

D. Hutchinson: Were two sites in original proposal?

G. Appe: Yes, this is Phase Two. Not implemented in Phase1 because of lack of funds available last year in IT program and facilities weren't ready for us to install the equipment.

B. Beyer made motion not to approve funding and B. Speer seconded. Funding not approved because it is a continuation of a project. Should be approved through the normal appropriations process.

Office of Data Base Commission

Ed Leachman, Director of the Office of Data Base Commission presented the proposal entitled "Louisiana E-Mall." Purpose of project is the development and operation of a LA E-Mall where citizens can purchase state government goods and services and also provide a packaged solution to encourage and assist state agencies in offering the sale of goods and services through the Internet. Once the initial group of agencies are in operation, other agencies will be able to participate in the E-Mall under the terms and rates established by the projects.

E. Leachman stated this proposal is directly in response to the Governor's mandate contained in Executive Order 97-39 to establish e-business capability for the state and reduce cost of service delivery in state government. The proposal is for \$925,000 in seed funding to contract with an e-commerce service provider.

The over concept of the e-mall is anyone who wants to do business with state over Internet through Info LA has access to email. Pilot agencies currently working with are Department of Economic Development, Department of Insurance, Department of Transportation and Development, Real Estate Commission, Office of State Registry. LA Data Base Commission will provide project sponsorship.

Questions:

B. Speer: I have a concern about providing operational funds. Would this be a venture type of capitol for state agencies who want to use technology?

A. Doescher: Approach is solutions based procurement. There is significant cost for infrastructure.

B. Speer: Is money for staff costs?

A. Doescher: No, cost for personnel included. Strictly contract with a service provider.

B. Beyer made motion to approve and B. Harper seconded motion.

Office of State Museum

Jim Sefcik, Director of the Louisiana State Museum presented the project entitled "Louisiana State Museum Electronic Preservation and Web-Based Public Access to Historic Photographs."

Mr. Sefcik stated the purpose of the project is to preserve, through high-resolution digitization, the La. State Museum's collection of historically significant photographs and dramatically improve public access to that collection via the Web. He stated there are a series of programs designed to bring state museums to people. There are currently traveling exhibitions in the state with branches in Patterson and Natchitoches, and one will be developed in Baton Rouge. There is a full-time staff person who travels the state and visits museums. There is a collection of over 200,000 3-dimensional objects. Collections are computerized and the data exists in the LAN. The painting collection (combo of data, info, and images) is on-line.

He stated the museum is presently working on sheet music, furniture, and silver collections. The single most important collection with greatest demand is the photography collection. The benefit of this project would be fragile photos will be protected because there will be no handling.

He further stated when this is operational, the museum is expected to exceed 1,000,000 hits. We will join the Art museum image consortium which will give additional exposure to many great museums and collections in the country, which will result in international exposure. There are no museums in the south represented and, there aren't any history museums represented. If represented, it will project Louisiana into the forefront of world occurrences and bring much attention to Louisiana. Mr. Sefcik stated the museum hoped to fund the program through the regular appropriations process, but did not happen.

Questions:

B. Speer commented after reviewing several proposals in the past year, we debate proposals on the use of innovation technology. This is the type of project that will open access to a number of citizens and will accomplish preservation of historic assets of museum. He stated this project was very innovative.

B. Beyer: In reviewing, this project seems identical to project funded last year for the Ogden Museum. Equipment is comparable. Perhaps there could be partnership between LSU and UNO regarding the use of equipment.

J. Sefcik: Some of the artifacts cannot be moved—would be damaged. Could not physically move the objects. Artifacts are at greatest risk when taken out of environment and into another.

B. Beyer: We should bring you, Ogden, and LSU's Digital Library group together.

D. Hutchinson: Technology can bring state together and the more we work together the better. Pursue LSU approach since that is already funded and if doesn't work we are committed to help you get project done.

J. Guillot made a motion to defer action on the request until after agencies meet to determine if they could partner together. B. Beyer seconded motion. Motion seconded with no objections-- item is deferred.

Department of Education

B. Franklin, Director of the Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources, for the Department of Education, presented a description of the project entitled "Department of Education WEB-Based Data Warehouse System (DW) in the amount of \$1,000,000. warehousing system. He stated the overall goal of the system is to improve student achievement and teacher quality by providing educational administrators and teachers access to the data they need to make effective decisions. The primary system users are district principals, teachers and state and district administrators. The project is part of a larger plan to improve the information management systems within the Department of Education. The project supports the mission critical activities of department and the state education program and is developed around national standards. Trying to come up with system accessible to customers.

He further stated the primary goals are 1) to improve student achievement and teacher quality by providing educational administrators and teachers access to the data they need to make effective decisions; and 2) to promote effective decision making using data, not opinions and perceptions. Basic purpose is to provide access to timely, accurate, and consistent data. Will reduce the dependence on personnel within agency, and improve data quality by exposing it to public. Data Warehousing is solution because it is an organized repository of data, provides mechanism for analysis, separate from current operational systems, data is tamper proof, displayed in read only format, provides historical base of info, and it's a one stop shop, and improves efficiency of system. The benefits are quick implementation of limited resources, empowers educators to focus on school improvement and aids in accountability. Information provided is needed by state board of education, federal government, supports accountability program, assists parents and legislators, educators, and business leaders. There is a system in place in Connecticut.

Dedicated phone lines would be replaced with a web-based system that collects data from the school systems via the Internet, part of Louisiana Education Accountability Data System (LEADS), also includes a data warehouse.

He further stated the reason the project is innovative is that it places dept in position of being better able to support a cooperative data system among state agencies. If successful, can be implemented to support universities, tech college systems, work force development plan, not limited to just education. Adds significant functionality to existing systems, allows them to impact user behavior considerably. Users are able to go on line and choose a school and look at its report cards--one for parents and the other for principals. A query system has been added and allows you to find schools and do a comparison to other schools of the same demographic nature. They would like to expand and provide more info in a rapid manner. Current system very simple and difficult to maintain and advance. New system can go to student, district, and local levels.

Questions:

J. Guillot: I think the project outstanding. Is there any evidence of implementation other than in Connecticut?

B. Franklin: No—it is very new, only one year old. We saw project before implementation. Data collected centrally and looked at their district-based solution on a statewide level. They are looking toward us.

B. Speer: One of the factors is missing data. What is plan to encourage areas to move the data to you?

B. Franklin: Very good collection system. Project allows ability to tie grade and course child to teacher. Will be able to track the child through their entire school career by their teacher.

D. Hutchinson: What is your outlook on the date that this goes live?

B. Franklin: Fall 2000 if RFP out and contractor in. The time estimated from the time they come in is about 3 months.

B. Speer: As a parent, how will this improve parents access to info, because you must have log in to get in warehouse.

B. Franklin: There are predefined reports on web that you will be able to access. Extent that public is allowed is not known without crashing or overusing system. Project built around business object and web intelligence.

D. Hutchinson: What are items in staff analysis that you were requested to provide and what is timetable for your phases? Is Fall 2000, phase 1 milestone?

B. Franklin: Dependent on how RFP process goes.

B. Speer: Has the proposal been reviewed by BESE?

B. Franklin: No, we have not written detailed proposal, not required to get approval for RFP.

B. Speer: What happened to budget request from Budget Office?

B. Franklin: We have received funding for accountability.

B. Speer: Did legislature increase allocation for accountability in the budget process last year?

B. Franklin: Yes, but not for info management side. Received 668,000 last year for new positions and had cuts and the 27th pay period eliminated any extra money.

B. Speer made a motion to approve the proposal not to exceed \$1 million and contingent to the RFI and RFP. J. Guillot stated the award should be subject to the terms of the memorandum of understanding and after BESE approval. Motion approved.

Tasks and services to be performed by the Contractor are as specified in the proposal submitted by the Dept. of Education. Any costs exceeding the amount awarded by the Council will be the responsibility of the Dept. of Education.

LSU Coastal Studies

Dr. Oscar K. Huh, Professor with Coastal Studies Institute presented the proposal “An X-Band Satellite Ground Station for the State of Louisiana.”

Dr. Huh stated the proposal is to request \$970,795 to give Louisiana the technological capability necessary to receive and process advanced real-time satellite-derived environmental information for the State. The real-time capability is most crucial for emergency management activities including the evolution, tracking and assessment of tropical storms and hurricanes, flood detection and mapping, fire detection and mapping, and oil spill response.

Satellite systems make measurements at the earth’s seam--ocean, atmosphere, and landmasses. With this explosion in power, much capability is required. Very special broadband communication link to get data down. State is developing geo info systems that need updating and this system provides it.

Project will involve installation of a tracking antenna on a concrete pedestal in the area of the old golf course on the LSU Campus. It will require a 3100 fiber optic cable to the Coastal Studies Institute at LSU. The new system will provide the state with a large range of new capabilities such as assessments of storm impacts (flooding, erosion, land loss), environmental damage/degradation, land-water boundary changes, etc. The new LSU system will be linked via Internet to state offices, universities and commercial enterprises.

With this investment, Louisiana will become one of only six states capable of receiving and processing new streams of advanced environmental measurements.

J. Guillot makes motion to approve proposal. B. Harper seconds motion.

LSU Dept. of Physics and Astronomy

Professor Greg Guzik with the Department of Physics and Astronomy presented the proposal entitled "Training Today's Students for Tomorrow's Internet Work Environment." Purpose of program is to provide students with experience in Internet technology to illustrate the basic concepts of being able to control devices over the Internet, develop the technical skills to do that, and to excite the imagination. Need to develop materials to guide the use of equipment and to train the teachers in the use of the materials and also, an assessment component is included. Economy is information technology driven. Much of it is information search and retrieval but in future Internet will become much more. Computers are prolific in most of appliances. Search and retrieval on the Internet is just not enough, so they would like to go a step further and develop a work force so it improves search and retrieval and allows work force to become entrepreneurs or be employed by those types of businesses.

Goals is to focus on middle and high school classrooms, develop classroom curriculum, and support material and test to make sure it is effective. Project is special and innovative because it is a cutting edge type of technology with a real time instrument control. Children will be able to actually touch instruments, communicate with astronauts on shuttle, will use components that already exist in Louisiana. There is no other similar internet development program that has such a close tie with scientists, educators, and community organizations which is important if we want to make programs work in classroom and to maintain technology in classroom.

Implementation: There are four types of robots with a common web server that passes information to and from robots. The components in classroom are the trained teachers, the curriculum support, and hardware itself. Curriculum is targeted to program. They anticipate producing a unique program that is second to none and doesn't exit anywhere else in terms of using the Internet in the classroom in a comprehensive fashion. The deliverables are instruments; reports, curriculum material and package.

Questions:

J. Guillot: What interaction has the Dept. of Education had?

G. Guzik: In development, none but planning to form interface with Department of Education and will solicit their input. Develop pilot, prove then involve Dept. of Education. .

B. Speer: We should fund equipment, software, and telecommunication aspects and someone else participate in terms of providing staff time and stipends. Very difficult to provide program without that type of direct involvement and commitment and generally education dept don't have funding to do innovative program when programs of such are formed should be coupled together resulting in a workable end product. If only equipment is funded then you will not have Education product proven to work in class.

B. Beyer: When do we bring in Dept. of Education and schools?

G. Guzik: We will do that in the beginning. First year is development and second year is workshop program where teacher is involved and being trained and Department of Education is invited for feedback. If stipends and salary is stripped out, there will be enough money to fund hardware and software.

Discussion was held regarding LSU needing to provide evidence that a firm commitment exists for the necessary funds and/or resources to ensure a successful implementation of the project.

Motion was made by B. Speer to award \$275,000 with condition mentioned above. B. Harper seconded motion.

Motion of 275,000 made and seconded.

Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Kevin Johns with the La. Community and Technical College System presented the proposal entitled "Paving the Dirt Roads of Technology: Providing Louisiana Communities with access to the information Super Highway." Cost of proposal is \$996, 925.

Proposal is to connect the 48 La. Technical College sites and 10 Community College sites to an innovative wide area network. Currently, the campuses use LaNet to connect to each other and the Internet. LaNet was never intended to be used as a solution for intra agency network traffic for which it is used today. Working with OTM, this project will build a first of its kind statewide Frame Relay network. Connecting the 48 sites and the 10 Community College sites will be a 40% cost savings.

After this completion of the project, the second task of the project is to build "on ramps" for 1690 student, faculty and administrative computers. This will be in the form of 14 local area networks.

Mr. Johns stated overall, the construction of a statewide wide area network for data, video and voice will provide a five-year cost savings of \$750,000 compared to using the existing telecommunications options.

B. Beyer suggested that Louisiana Community and Technical College System work closer with OTM. This project could possibly be accomplished through them.

B. Beyer made motion not to approve. J. Guillot seconded motion.

D. Hutchinson stated this was the completed of proposals submitted to the Council. Next meeting will be posted on the Web at a later date.

B. Harper made motion to adjourn. B. Beyer seconded motion.